

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



---

WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

---

Summary No. 26

September 5, 1942

INDIANA (August 1). — Neighborhood leader system in many counties completed; system accepted enthusiastically.

Rural fire prevention and control campaign being carried on vigorously with co-operation of OCD, State forester, State superintendent of public instruction, State fire marshal, and fire underwriters' organizations. Fire insurance association contributed \$500 toward campaign; sent to each county agent's office a hay probe to be lent to farmers; helped to distribute 9,000 posters. 125,000 fire hazard check lists distributed to farmers.

Another publication on dairy side of Food for Freedom sent all county agents. Dairy radio broadcasts enlarged to include 15-minute weekly and 30-minute monthly program; latter answers questions from dairymen. Two radio transcriptions prepared. Educational dairy exhibit and show prepared for use at 10 county and district fairs, covering feed programs, health of herd, quality production, pasture programs. Check of 1,094 dairy articles used in year just ended showed 70 percent dealt with Food for Freedom.

Number of county leader training meetings held in garden Food-for-Freedom program. Average garden larger this year, exceeding quota of one-tenth acre for each person. Canning demonstration meetings held for leaders in 28 counties; emphasis on preventing spoilage and using less sugar. Printed information on drying fruits and vegetables, homemakers' canning guide, and timetable for processing, prepared and sent to leaders. Seed companies report selling almost as much garden seed this summer as during spring; give credit to extension garden program. Much late-planted produce will be stored for winter.

Leaflet entitled "Housing Happy Hoosier Hens" prepared for leader meetings. Circular sent to all county agents and poultry leaders on dangers of overdoing vaccination for chicken pox.

LOUISIANA (August 1). (Special report on Food-for-Freedom situation) — About 20 percent more purebred boars than in same period last year placed with farmers to improve commercial hogs in 1942. Total value of hogs in State now estimated at \$7,000,000, compared with \$4,000,000 in 1941.

13 percent more layers in State this year than last. Egg production in July 1942, 15.6 percent more than in first 6 months of 1941; production in first 6 months of 1942, 15.3 percent more than same period in 1941.

This season's return from strawberries largest since 1913. Farm value of potatoes 41 percent over 1941; big increase in sweetpotatoes.

Rice crop largest since 1920; 27,626 bushels forecast. Will bring \$50,000,000, biggest return on record.

Largest sugar crop on record - 500,000 tons. Increase in sugarcane, 47 percent; acreage planted increased only 0.7 percent.

New crop, soybeans for oil, on 149,000 acres. Estimated yield, 2,233,000 bushels; farm value, \$3,349,500. Peanuts for oil planted on 47,000 acres. Estimated yield, 30,639,000 pounds; farm value \$1,062,915.

Gardens planted on 98 percent of Louisiana farms, compared with 84.6 last year; 20,000 more gardens than in 1941, which was record year.

Milk production will reach 784,900,000 pounds as compared with 5-year average of 644,000,000 pounds.

125 farms have 10 or more purebred beef cattle females producing registered bulls. In 1930 virtually no purebred bulls in State. Average farm value of cattle in 1942, \$32.50, compared with 10-year average of \$18.51; increase due to better breeding practices.

MISSOURI (August 1). -- With the leadership structure to carry information to farm people reaching the working stage in most counties, 23,136 neighborhood leaders have been designated in 5,980 neighborhoods of 108 counties. "Understanding" is the key word in leader training, and agents and specialists report 136 leader-training meetings in 20 counties attended by 2,046.

In counties flooded by the Missouri River, neighborhood leaders have arranged clinics for typhoid fever vaccination, and have taken information on health, livestock, crops, and nutrition to families affected by flood. In one county alone 800 people were vaccinated, and information was carried to more than 300 families. County reports show from 10 to 96 meetings to the county held by leaders during month of July, with 8 to 50 persons attending.

Leaders in 11 communities of 6 counties have arranged for "cotton days" at which people will study kind of cotton most needed in war effort and what they can do in picking, handling, and ginning to make it more completely fit national need. Poultry leaders in 7 counties held 4 radio broadcasts and 16 meetings on culling, pullet and adult flock management, and egg care. In Vernon County, as result of 7 training meetings attended by 244 leaders, 96 meetings were held in rural schoolhouses on the night of July 6, with 1,374 persons attending, for discussion of 7-point program to check inflation. At these meetings the people selected fats salvage chairman and transportation chairman for each district. The 43 members of Community Builders Club in Barton County have collected 15,920 pounds scrap iron, 250 pounds paper, 135 pounds rubber, and 10 pounds aluminum; 15 members have taken first-aid training, 9 boys planted larger acreage food and feed crops, 5 girls doing more canning, and 1 girl driving tractor full time.



To emphasize again means, systems, and practices available for farmers to adopt and practice for increased wartime production, country-wide soils and crops tours have been held in 36 counties.

Forty-eight counties report 232 meetings with 5,828 people, on canning, drying, brining, and storage. Farm people in 21 counties have made 15,585 pounds of cheese from surplus milk.

Transportation surveys completed for Moniteau County, and now in process for St. Louis milk shed. These studies will help in saving of tires and motor vehicles.

A loan closet including linens, enamelware, crutches, wheel chair, and other necessary equipment for the sickroom has been assembled by county council women's clubs of Carroll County. These will be lent to farm people and county doctors.

Rural fire control program started in all counties. Extension carrying on fire-prevention campaign through rural leaders; and Forest Service, Conservation Commission, and State council of defense training forest fighters and auxiliary firemen.

MONTANA (September 1). -- As evidence of response and contribution of rural people throughout State toward wartime activities, reports are given from four counties.

Beaverhead County - Realizing rural fires would be a major problem this county, plan presented to people for organization of complete county fire suppression plan, which called for creation of 63 districts in county, with a leader in each district appointed by civilian defense and advisory committee, and deputized by county sheriff in order to have authority to act in any emergency. Forest Service arranged for training meetings in various sections of county, not only for training of leaders but for training all others in community who were able to attend. In addition two 25-man emergency fire-fighting crews were organized in town of Dillon and trained by Forest Service. County sheriff as County Commander is responsible for getting crews to any part of county in case of emergency. Due to alertness of leaders in county, of 20 fires reported all but one were confined to small areas.

Missoula County - Three hundred county home demonstration club members preserving surplus food, 15 4-H girls carrying on food preservation project, and 95 4-H girls helping with preserving at home. Home demonstration agent conducted training school in food preservation for 12 nonextension clubs, with 19 leaders present. Has prepared 6 newspaper articles and given 3 broadcasts on different methods preserving foods. Many members home demonstration and 4-H Clubs helping in the beet and hay fields; assisting rationing boards with canning sugar certificates; collecting scrap fat, metal, and paper; acting as air-raid wardens and fire leaders. One 4-H leader and her daughter helped by staying at emergency fire lookout for 2 weeks; one demonstration club of 18 members organized to cook for fire crews and act as telephone messengers.

Glacier County - Has contributed and is contributing to war effort by emphasizing program adopted shortly after declaration of war at meeting of representatives Extension, Blackfoot Indian Reservation, county planning committees, USDA war

Board, AAA committees, which program stresses efficiency in production of those products usually produced, and production of those things which in past were purchased from other areas. A rural home garden for every rural home; each rural home to produce enough dairy poultry and meat products for home consumption; produce and put up essential feed as needed for wintering of cattle and sheep; increased production of hogs.

Regular USDA war board meetings held twice a month in county, and considerable time given to machinery survey, lumber survey, and other questionnaires from national and State war boards. Farmers assisted by war board and Extension concerning their needs and requirements.

Roosevelt County - Information being assembled on amounts foods being preserved and stored in county. Food preservation meetings conducted throughout county by home demonstration agent. Canning and dehydrating work on large scale in connection with 25-acre county garden, in planning and operation of which the county agent and home demonstration agent have participated. Information relative nutritional values and importance proper nutrition as a wartime measure given out by home demonstration agent at meetings, by radio and press, and personal contact. Has also given publicity to fat salvage campaign and by personal contact with meat dealers has set up waste fat receiving points in various towns.

Food production and preservation an important part of 4-H Victory program in county. Club members produced 13 acres gardens; collected 3,895 pounds scrap rubber, 21,250 pounds iron, 5,750 pounds paper, and 100 pounds rags; have invested \$809.85 in stamps and bonds; completed 136 hours of Red Cross work; and 2,565 hours of farm and home work to help relieve labor shortage.

The County extension agents have initiated local leadership plan in cooperation with 120 leaders acting in 60 districts.

County agent is secretary of county war board. Has aided farmers in obtaining essential farm machinery under priorities regulations, and assisted operators and dealers in obtaining lumber and other building supplies; has taken part on all war board activities in regard to farm labor, grain storage problems, and activities in regard to farm labor, grain storage problems, and activities in cooperation with the Selective Service Board.

NEBRASKA (August 26). - Latest reports indicate 2,079 communities with 1,649 men and 1,128 women who are Victory Captains, and 4,411 men and 3,957 women Victory Leaders on the neighborhood basis. All these leaders have had opportunity through leader-training meetings or by personal contact to receive training as to their duties. Following phases of work have already received attention of leaders: Gardens, food preservation, good crop management for production grain and feed crops, fire prevention and control, salvage, inflation, pooling of transportation, better milk and cream, increased egg and poultry production, orderly marketing of hogs, sugar rationing, labor supply.

The rural fire prevention and control program has been the means of saving thousands of acres of grain and hay crops. In many counties complete organizations with fire wardens are effected and definite plans worked out in advance for the control of fire if there is an outbreak. In the sandhill area small tool houses have been built at intervals so that equipment may be handy. These houses contain shovels, spades, torches, and a can of kerosene for starting backfires; also a can



of water and old burlap bags for fighting the flames. In other localities ranchers and farmers carry some of this equipment with them in their cars or trucks when they go to the field to work.

Transportation problems receiving attention. Pooling of transportation on neighborhood basis being emphasized. In some communities families have limit of one trip to town a week, pick up neighbors or do shopping for them. In level regions where telephones are rare, red flag is flown from windmill tower to indicate trip to town. Families who want to get something from town put signal at gate so neighbor will stop for order and fill it on trip.

Search for scrap of all kinds continues from day to day. A statewide scrap salvage campaign for 4-H Clubs resulted in the "Vitamins for Victory" club in Dundy County turning in 404,800 pounds of metal and 4,840 pounds of rubber, to receive first prize.

4-H program somewhat curtailed because of labor shortage. Many club boys replacing older brothers or hired men who have taken war jobs or joined armed forces. Girls also filling in or taking jobs.

OHIO (August 28). -- Weekly omnibus letter, "Ohio Farm Front Facts," being sent county agents, contains short items relating to war and agriculture. Agents using part or all of information to pass on to neighborhood leaders.

Farmers' institutes for coming winter to be geared to war needs. Sessions to be victory rallies. Successful farmers all sections volunteer to speak on special production problems. Institutes reach many farm people -- 608,000 in 1941-42.

Reports indicate strong demand for peaches and tomatoes for canning. Demand partly result of extension publicity urging home preservation these two important foods.

With favorable weather State will produce record-breaking 23,000,000 bushel soybean crop. All possible assistance will be given with problems of harvesting, drying, and storing crop.

County agents cooperating in all counties in salvage campaigns and acting as salvage chairmen in some counties. Darke County reports 137 neighborhood leaders contacted 1,740 farm families and found they had turned in 77,236 pounds scrap rubber. Hancock County reports -- metal, 4,777,825 pounds; rubber, 339,508 pounds; rags, 87,394 pounds; paper, 279,194 pounds.

Two recent wartime folders issued are Legume Seed Production, emphasizing need for more legumes to replace nitrogen formerly obtained from fertilizers; and Enriched Flour and Bread, advocating increased use because of extra health value and showing what each family can do to get widespread use of enriched bread.

PENNSYLVANIA (September 1 from special 4-H report). --4-H members carrying vegetable growing projects doubled over number last year. Hundreds of members managing vegetable gardens in addition to carrying on regular 4-H projects in other lines. Pig club members enlarging their projects, with expectation they will market half a million pounds of pork on the hoof through marketing organizations and livestock auctions in period August 27 - September 10.

There is a big increase of emphasis in homemaking clubs on canning and preservation of foods. An interesting development has been expansion of lunch-box work, particularly in improvement of lunches carried by members of 4-H Club members' families employed in defense industries.

4-H members are responding splendidly to suggestion that they participate in some community wartime service. In a number of counties they have assisted with scrap metal and rubber salvage. Others are packing kits and boxes for members of armed forces from their home communities. In 2 counties club groups are responsible for manning airplane spotting posts on definite schedules. Many girls are knitting for Red Cross or rolling bandages. Appeals for purchase of bonds and stamps meeting with good response. Pennsylvania Bankers' Association is financing purchase of 4-H Victory Buttons to be awarded in all counties to 4-H members who make some contribution to general welfare over and above their regular club work.

Club members have been encouraged to organize on a small neighborhood "walk-in" basis. Numerous members are attending meetings on bicycles and horseback.

Because of travel difficulties, emphasis has been placed on use of mail and telephone to keep in touch with agents, and increased use of news stories and radio to keep public informed concerning development of work. Eight counties are carrying regularly scheduled radio programs, with notice in advance to club members, as means of conveying person-to-person instructions from county workers to members in their area. A series of electrical transcriptions has been made in the field through cooperation of 2 radio stations.